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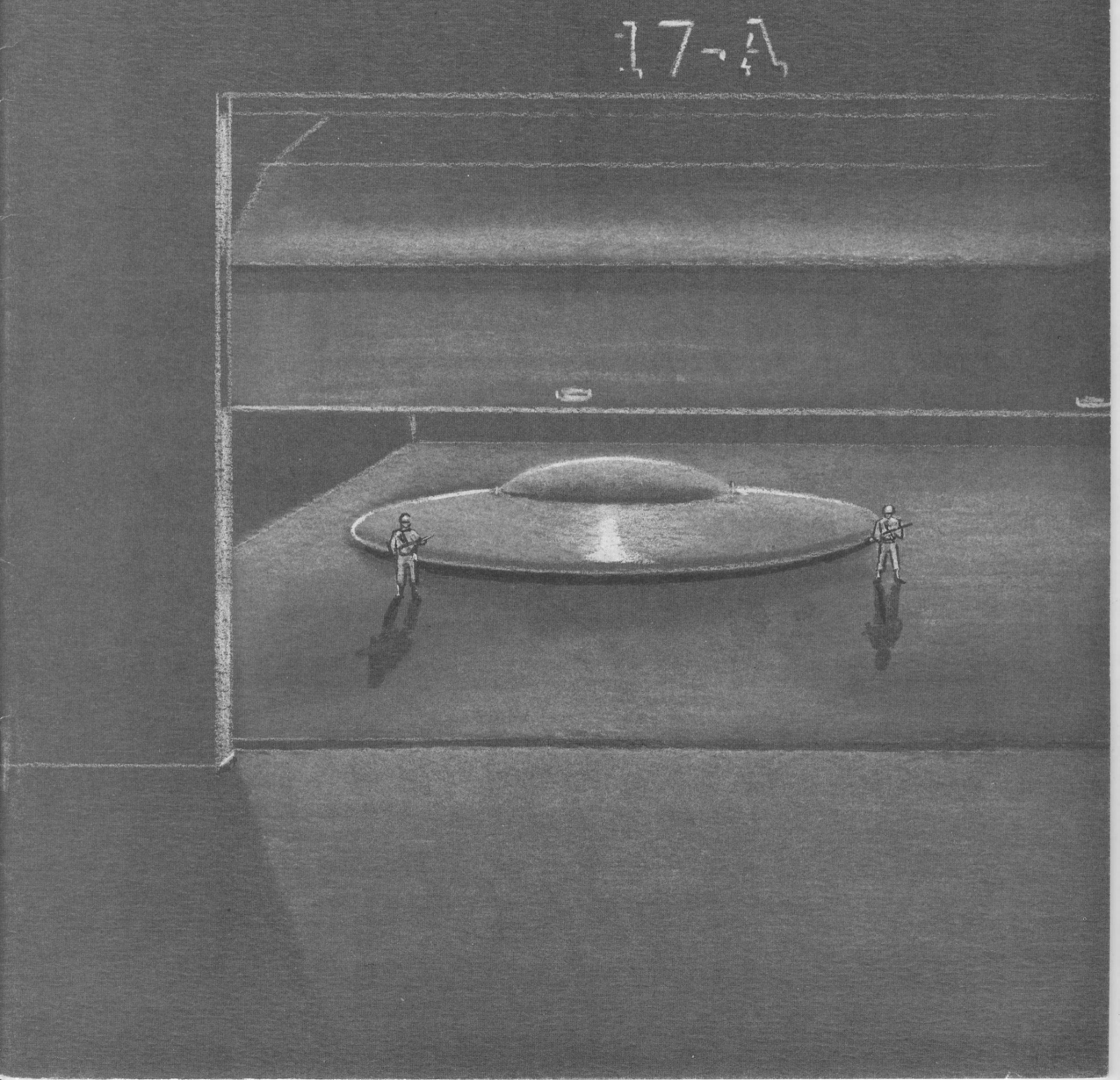

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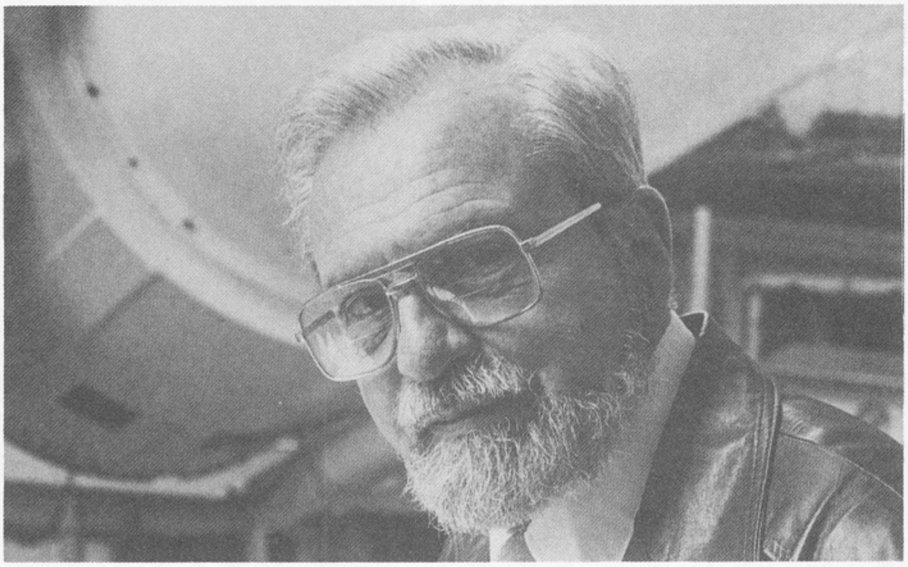

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EDITORIAL: Philip and Howard 3

In the land of dreams *by Grant R. Cameron, T. Scott Crain, and Chris Rutkowski* 4

In the black *by Mark Rodeghier* 9

A photograph and its aftermath *by I. Scott* 12

Abduction and deception *by Budd Hopkins* 15

UFOs as time travelers *by Michael D. Swords* 18

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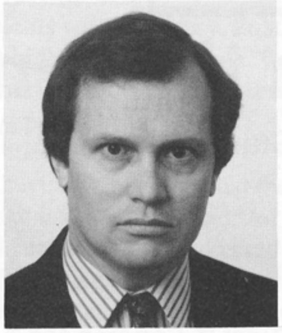
EDITORIAL

Philip and Howard



Jerome Clark

Elsewhere in this issue CUFOS scientific director Mark Rodeghier reviews Howard Blum's new book *Out There* and finds it long on shortcomings. By now just about every ufologist who has read it agrees that the book is a major disappointment. Filled with errors, bloated with padding, it is not the sort of work one is going to place on the shelf alongside *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, *The UFO Controversy in America*, *Clear Intent*, or even *Above Top Secret* and *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy*—all of which address the related questions of how interested official agencies are in UFOs and what they do or do not know about them.

This is not to say that *Out There* is utterly without redeeming ufological value. There is some new information in its pages, or at least there seems to be. I add these qualifying words because so much of what we do know about is badly reported here, and new complaints about misrepresentation (most recently, I understand, from the people of Elmwood, Wisconsin) keep getting expressed. So one can hardly help wondering how much of what one is reading here for the first time is believable. Still, we can be grateful to Blum for informing us of the existence of a UFO Working Group, even if he tells us relatively little about it beyond that it's there, and of the occurrence of the spectacular radar case recounted in *Out There*'s opening pages, even if so much detail is lacking that we are not entirely sure what happened.

Faint praise, needless to say. On the whole, however, Blum is so inept that he accomplishes the improbable end of making Philip J. Klass sound occasionally sensible. Those who have followed the Philip and Howard show will know that Klass and Blum have been paired on radio and television talk shows, with Blum the inevitable loser. Klass' motive is clear, of course; an endorsement of a UFO cover-up from a mainstream journalist constitutes a significant threat to the fragile belief system of the professional debunker, and the latter's continued credibility (at least among the ufologically illiterate, who don't know any better) depends upon his success in quashing the heresy and banishing the heretic.

Not that Blum is much of a heretic. In his media appearances he's stumbled repeatedly over his tongue in a mad verbal rush to distance himself from "UFO believers" (i.e., those who know a whole lot more about the subject than he does but who have not received big advances from publishers to tell what they don't know), or even to avoid being linked with the notion that government interest in UFOs is symptomatic of anything other than government waste. To Klass it's not so much Blum, who by now has demonstrated his insignificance to the full satisfaction of anyone who is paying attention, as what Blum represents: possibly the first indication that mainstream media may be about to abandon their traditional practice of writing UFO stories out of CSICOP press releases and to commence with some actual investigative journalism, with potentially dire consequences for those who, like Klass, have enjoyed a relatively free ride courtesy of reportorial apathy. When even a third-rate reporting job by a timid scribe uncovers a secret UFO project, one can well imagine, or fear (depending on how one interprets Klass' phrase "UFOs: the public deceived"), what a first-rate one by a courageous journalist would do. In fact, at least one such effort is in the works.

Yet even a kneejerk nonadmirer of the man who once equated UFO cover-up proponents with subversives—I call it the Ufology-Is-Tantamount-to-Communism Hypothesis, or UITCH for short—will have a hard time calling on the usual reserves of righteous indignation when Klass complains that no such person as Col. Harold E. Phillips, the alleged head of the working group, can be shown to exist. In his *Los Angeles Times* review (September 2) Klass—his prose presumably vetted by the *Times*' legal advisors—seems to imply that Blum is a sort of Clifford Irving figure. Irving, if your memory fails you, was the guy who wrote a notorious book based on fictitious interviews with billionaire Howard Hughes. Or maybe Blum is a Melvin Dumar stand-in; Dumar dubiously claimed to have found Hughes' will and to have been named therein as a major beneficiary (for details see Jonathan Demme's wonderful film *Melvin and Howard*). But in the absence of good—or, for that matter, any—damning evidence, it is more reasonable to conclude that Blum, out of carelessness or indifference, simply failed to make it clear that Phillips is a fabricated name for a genuine officer. Still, the reader has every right to know whether "Harold E. Phillips" is a real man or a pseudonymous one. And Klass does a good job, as far as I can tell, of showing why the above-mentioned radar case could not have occurred as Blum reports it.

Still, as ever Klass proves himself the past master of the red herring and the non sequitur. In the September

continued on page 22

In the land of dreams

by Grant R. Cameron, T. Scott Crain, and Chris Rutkowski

■■ Grant R. Cameron and T. Scott Crain are authors of the forthcoming *UFOs, MJ-12 and the Government.* Chris Rutkowski is a contributing editor to *IUR.*

Everyone likes a good story. In ufology these days, good stories are easy to come by, and the result is mass confusion, name-calling and libel suits. Take the fantastic claims of Robert Lazar about the place known as Area 51. Besides Gulf Breeze, this is perhaps the most incredible UFO story of the past several years, and if true, it is probably the story of the century. Versions of the story have appeared in a host of UFO magazines across North America, and UFO buffs are looking at the claims with slightly jaundiced eyes after being thoroughly befuddled by the conflicting allegations being published about MJ-12.

Like the MJ-12 affair, the stories about Area 51 involve clandestine activity, anonymous sources, top-secret government programs and more than a hint of disinformation. It is no wonder that the ufological community is slow to embrace the claims, or that the testimony of second-sources causes so much confusion.

Though there probably cannot be any definitive paper about Area 51 until the rumor mills slow down, we can go on the authority of some meager facts which are available. As usual it is difficult to assess the reliability of many informants, and it is certainly uncomfortable that much of the information was obtained through the actions and investigation of journalists. With those words of caution, we address this question: how much of the Area 51 story is true?

Area 51

What and where is Area 51? It is one of America's most secret classified operations bases, according to Christopher Beall. Writing in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, he reports: "Lying about 85 miles northwest of Las Vegas, the base is an expanse of aircraft hangers, technical facilities and a 12,000 foot runway that rises above a dry lake bed in a desolate corner of Nellis Air Force Range. The place has not got an official name, although it is unofficially referred to as Area 51." Beall further avers, "Rumors about the base have variously attributed the Stealth bomber development program or President Reagan's 'Star Wars' missile defense program to it. There are also people who believe the remains of an alien spacecraft are stored at the facility."

Area 51 was first constructed in 1955, but most maps of the area do refer to Area 51 or even note its existence inside the test site's borders. The CIA controlled the base up until the early 1970s, when Air Force Intelligence took over.

How secret are the base and its programs? In an article in the *Review-Journal* Ned Day took note of this rumor: "An insider tells of an airplane so secret that 'whenever it comes out of its hanger, or when it comes in for a landing, a siren goes off and all personnel (except a select few) have to lie face down on their stomachs to make sure they don't look at it.'"

Is there any evidence to support these fantastic stories? The February 1987 issue of *Gung Ho!* magazine quoted an Air Force officer who said, "We are flight testing vehicles that defy description. To compare them conceptually to the SR-71 would be like comparing Leonardo da Vinci's parachute design to the space shuttle." According to the magazine, "Rumor has it that some of these systems involve force field technology, gravity drive systems, and 'flying saucer' designs. Rumor further has it that these designs are not necessarily of Earth human origin, but of who might have designed them or helped us do it, there is less talk . . . . The Air Force has had a unit at Nellis for several years; its name: Alien Technology Center . . . . [D]o you think they are studying Mexicans?"

The article is attributed to Al Frickey, the pseudonym, researcher Lee Graham determined, of James C. Goodall, a renowned aviation writer and photographer. Goodall is an expert on Stealth technology, and while doing research on the aircraft, his views on UFOs shifted from negative to positive. The change came about through his conversations with authorities who claimed to know what kind of aircraft are being test-flown at Groom Lake.

When interviewed by Las Vegas' KLAS-TV reporter George Knapp in May of this year, Goodall claimed to have talked with an engineer at Lockheed Aircraft's Advanced Systems Division (better known as the "skunkworks") which tests machines at Area 51. When Goodall asked about UFOs, the engineer replied, "Absolutely, positively, without a doubt, they exist."

But is the technology extraterrestrial? Goodall put the question to a master sergeant who claimed to have done three tours of duty at Groom Lake. According to Goodall, "He says the United States government and the military has [sic] things that are out there—you can't describe them as airplanes—that are literally out of this world. And he says they are alien to anything that you've ever seen." When Goodall pressed for further details, the man replied he had said too much already.

KLAS-TV also interviewed Ben Rich, the man who runs the skunkworks and who is the genius behind such advanced aircraft as the U2, the SR-71 Blackbird and the Stealth fighter. When Rich was asked if alien technology is being used at Area 51, he said, "No, it isn't. It's just good American ingenuity." According to one report, however, Rich told an old friend in a letter that he is a believer in both man-made and extraterrestrial flying saucers.

Now that the Stealth fighter is no longer a secret, it is obvious that it must have taken a great deal of development and testing to get it airworthy. Furthermore, since it has been announced that it has been sent to the Middle East for possible combat, we can note that the military has enough confidence in its product that it feels secure about sending it into the field.

An obvious question arises: If aircraft so much more advanced are in development, why bother with SR-71s at all? The military applications of a working, flyable saucer would be enormous, especially if it operates through the use of new concepts such as "gravity motors" and "inertia damps." One could easily extend this argument and ask why the Apollo space program was necessary if, as the rumors suggest, the saucer technology was available as early as the 1960s. While there is no disputing that "American ingenuity" can produce marvels, it is difficult to believe that the military would have developed its own flying saucers. Unless, of course, it had help.

Is it true, as some suspect, that Area 51 is a complex used to study, and perhaps fly, recovered UFOs? In this context Area 51 has often been called "Dreamland" to reflect its strange nature. This name has also been suggested to be a kind of code description used by persons whose work often takes them into the region.

Typical of the stories of Dreamland is this one, published in Tom Adams' *Stigmata*:

> Capt. Nunnallee, 27th TFW/522 TFS, Cannon AFB, New Mexico . . . tells a story of knowing an individual who guarded a certain hangar at a place in the desert known as Dreamland. This individual told him that the hangar held a cosmic type of aircraft of which [sic] he had never seen before. He disclosed that all area lights were shut off when the hangar doors were to be opened. On one occasion he saw the doors open during the night and saw an unusual object come out and took off straight up. The aerial craft was disc-shaped with dull tonelights. He said rumors were of a strange new aircraft design given to the United States from a superior group which was taken to be aliens because of the advances and overall security hushhush.

There are obvious problems with this story. First, would someone with such a high clearance tell an outsider so much? This is another example of the second-hand yarn so often cited as support for the Area 51 rumors.

These rumors have it, inevitably perhaps, that the crashed saucer at Groom Lake had aliens aboard. An example of the logic behind such stories is expressed in the July 1988 issue of the *Nevada Aerial Research Newsletter*. According to the newsletter, the Air Force was asked "point blank" if there are aliens at the Nevada test range. It replied that it could neither confirm nor deny the presence of aliens; that, the newsletter declared, "is tantamount to saying 'yes' as far as most people are concerned." Of course the Air Force would have answered in the same fashion if it had been asked, "Have you stopped bombing innocent civilians?" The newsletter does not tell us just who asked about aliens on the base.

As *IUR* readers know, rumors of alleged sightings of alien craft and bodies abound and are linked to a number of bases in the United States. But the currently best-known and most complicated story concerns the claims of Robert Lazar.

In 1987 John Lear, the son of aircraft designer (and UFO proponent) William P. Lear, related a series of bizarre stories about aliens or, as he said they were called in official circles, EBEs (extraterrestrial biological entities). Ufology's more sober partisans were almost uniformly skeptical and would have paid little attention if not for the subsequent journalistic efforts of George Knapp. Knapp was a news reporter at a television channel in Las Vegas, with the ironic call letters KLAS-TV. Early on Lear had taken his story to Knapp, and in May 1989 he introduced Knapp to one Robert Lazar, whom he identified as a physicist.

After some investigation, on November 10 Knapp began airing a series of stories about Area 51. His principal source was Lazar, who in an on-camera interview stated that the secret, sophisticated technology being tested at the S-4 sector of the Nevada Test Site is of alien origin.

Lazar claims he worked at Los Alamos National Laboratories in 1982 and 1983, but investigators checking into his background have had a hard time trying to substantiate his claims. Lazar states that he received his degree from MIT, but it has no records of him. In response Lazar charges that his transcripts and other records are disappearing because the government is seeking to turn him into a nonperson. Lazar told Stanton Friedman that he had attended Pierce College and Cal State, but Friedman was able to verify only that Lazar had taken some electronics courses at Pierce, and these had ended in 1976. Friedman further discovered that Lazar was never a member of the American Physical Society or the American Nuclear Society.

Knapp found that Lazar was listed in Los Alamos' telephone book of the period, but a spokesperson for the laboratory denied Lazar had ever worked there. Yet Knapp located several Los Alamos persons who remembered Lazar, and he uncovered everything from newspaper articles about him to records of Lazar's speeding tickets. There is enough evidence to confirm that Lazar worked at Los Alamos in some capacity.

While at Los Alamos, Lazar claimed, he had a chance meeting with Edward Teller, the noted physicist. Lazar had heard Lear speak of some of the strange things supposedly occurring at Groom Lake. Lear said the government had recovered 20 to 30 crashed UFOs and held several dozen alien bodies in cold storage; furthermore, the government is cooperating with two kinds of aliens at a base in the desert.

As Lear tells it, Lazar was skeptical at first, but as his application was being processed with the government personnel office, he decided to ask Teller if he could get placed at Area 51. A special meeting and interview resulted, and in due course Lazar was shown Dreamland.

Lazar claims he was flown to Groom Lake, then taken on a bus (with the windows blacked out) to S-4 (Dreamland) and driven inside the base. From the outside the base looked like part of the desert and sand camouflaged the hangar doors. Lazar surmised that he was hired to work on advanced propulsion systems that the U.S. military had developed there. Once inside the base, Lazar said he was shown classified reports on flying saucers, photographs of aliens, autopsy reports of humanoid bodies, and pictures of the discs. Lazar was surprised and amazed at what was going on there. He was told the project is called MAJESTIC and is run by the Navy.

According to Lazar, some of the discs are being taken apart and others are being test-flown to see how they operate. He has no idea how the discs got there. Progress in reproducing the technology is moving slowly, Lazar said, because of the difficulty in substituting terrestrial materials for alien materials.

Although Lazar worked there only a few months, he says he was brought up to speed quickly so that he could begin working immediately. Lazar says he was educated about what had been learned up to that point about the alien spacecraft. The discs are powered by an antimatter reactor which creates its own gravitational field, a technology that does not exist on earth. The substance that fuels the antimatter reactor is an element number 115, which does not appear on the periodic table. Although the element cannot be made on earth, Lazar claims that the government somehow has in its possession 500 pounds of it. Lazar says a kilo of 115 has the capacity to produce the equivalent of 46 10-megaton hydrogen bombs, which may account for the tight security, since the substance is so dangerous.

Lazar says that in April 1987 two persons were killed when an accident occurred. The explosion was explained as an unannounced nuclear test, but (at least in Lazar's version) it had something to do with element 115 and the antimatter reactor. Lazar was hired to replace one of the victims of the accident.

Lazar says he has seen nine of the saucers stored at S-4. He saw them so often that he gave them nicknames. He told Knapp, "I gave everything names [sic]: the top hat and you know—the jello mold and the sport model operated without any hitches at all. I mean, it looked new. If I knew what a new flying saucer looked like. One of them looked like it was hit with some sort of a projectile. It had a large hole in the bottom and a large hole in the top with the metal bent out like some sort of, you know, large-caliber four- or five-inch had gone through it."

Lazar suspected that the saucers were from elsewhere when he got his first glimpse of the craft's inside:

"I got to look inside and it had really small chairs. I think that this was the first confirmation I had. That was just a shocking thing because every time before that I was able to label it. This is just a little advance that a group of scientists had formed and, you know, they're keeping it secret, and yeah, we could have built a big disc like that, and yeah, that's no problem, and you know, we could have adapted . . . to make it fly. But why does it have little furniture inside? And things began to click together just all too fast."

Some of the discs were fully operational:

"The bottom of it glowed blue and began to hiss like any—like high voltage does on a round sphere. It's my impression that the reason that they're round and have no sharp edges is to contain the high voltage. It began to hiss as with a high voltage and it lifted off the ground quietly except for that little hiss in the background, and that stopped as soon as it reached about 20 or 30 feet."

Lazar told Knapp he became discouraged with the government's saucer program because progress was moving so slowly. Lazar attributed this to the extreme caution and intense secrecy surrounding the project:

"It's just unfair, outright, not to put it in the hands of the overall scientific community. There are people much more capable of dealing with this information, and by this time we would have gotten a lot further along than this small, select group of people working out in the middle of the desert. They don't even have the facilities, really, to completely analyze what they're dealing with . . . . I did not believe that this should be a security matter. Some of it, sure. But just the concept that there's definite proof and, uh, we even have articles from another world, another system—you just can't not tell everyone."

Unable to keep the secrets to himself any longer, he started telling close friends about what was going on at S-4. To prove to them that he knew what he was talking about, he correctly predicted the time and location of several night tests of the alleged flying discs. According to Lazar, he went with some friends into the Groom Mountains to view the UFO test for themselves.

Although the witnesses were some distance from the facility, they managed to videotape a lighted object as it rose up from the range and moved around the night sky. Unfortunately, because of the distance and darkness, there were no reference points, so it is impossible to determine from the videotape what the object was.

Lazar's group successfully dodged security patrols on two excursions, but on the third night it was caught by the sheriff. The next day Lazar was not driven to work but taken to another location for a debriefing. The military reminded Lazar of his security oaths and threatened him with bodily harm. Although Lazar was called back to work, he decided it would not be in his best interest to go back to an isolated place in the desert where his employers could take any action they wanted against him.

Since being caught out there that night as he watched a test flight, Lazar says he has received threatening phone calls, and someone shot at him on the freeway.

Lazar maintains that for a time he had some of element 115 in his possession, having smuggled it off the base in small led containers. Lear supports the claim and reports that some "experiments" were conducted: "The 115 was kept in Bob's laboratory at his house for about three or four months. It was stolen back by the government the third night of the Knapp special. It appears, in its lead casing, in the background of one of the shots of Bob. We did several experiments with it which we have on videotape. These include putting the 115 in a cloudchamber and passing the radioactive particles across the 115 to demonstrate the attraction [deflection]. I held the lead-encased 115 many times. We also had a number of other items from the saucer which were stolen back also."

Despite some apparent confirmation of certain aspects of Lazar's background, investigators have found many serious flaws and much suspicious information. Earlier in his life, they learned, Lazar had been known by a different name, which made it difficult to follow his personal history. Lazar has said he does not want investigators to look into his background and has refused to cooperate with them.

Lazar underwent a polygraph test, but the results were inconclusive. Although Lazar claims vivid recollections about the saucers and alien technology, his memory appears to be incomplete in other areas, such as the briefing papers he says he was shown. He also seems to have forgotten what he had been doing during large blocks of time. To help recall some of these details, Lazar sought out Layne Keck, a licensed hypnotherapist, to help him remember what else may have happening during his brief stint at S-4. Lazar suspects his employers used mind-control techniques to keep him from remembering too much about S-4. Keck was puzzled by the results and suggested that mind-altering chemicals may have been used to confuse Lazar's memory.

On February 15 of this year Canadian ufologist Tom Mickus released a file from his computer BBS, UFONET. The document purportedly is a response by the U.S. government to Lazar's allegations. Mickus noted that the "file was received anonymously here at my Fidonet address, from a mailer using an unlisted Fidonet number of (1:999/999). The file was sent along with a short msg [message]." The message read, "DEAR FRIEND: HERE IS A FILE THAT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN. I SUGGEST YOU LOOK AT VERY VERY CLOSELY. IT CONTAINS MORE THAN WHAT IS EASLY [sic] READABLE."

SUMMARY REPORT 2 Feb 1990

Sub: Robert Lazar

Scope: Background and personality

1. The purpose of this report is to detail the available background of Mr. Robert Lazar. Since his recent exposure to the media and the attention it had placed on the activities in the test range this will function as an internal document for staff briefings on the matter.

2. The subject has been employed by a DOD contractor to service and maintain ECM simulator sites in the test complex. At no time has he been admitted to the advanced system test area. Contractor personnel are familiar with this area thru the peer gossip that occurs. As far as can be determined Mr. Lazar has not had access to any current profess in the area nor does the contractor support team he was associated with have any clearance for these projects.

3. After a review of his background it is highly likely that the subject seeks recognition thru the spotlight of the media. Mr. Lazar has been featured on a local TV program as well as visits to radio talk programs. All indications are that he is highly intelligent but is not satisfied with his level of achievement in his current profession. Checks with his co-workers back-up this assessment.

4. All inquiries about Mr. Lazar should be handled thru the Nellis AFB Public Affairs office. No further action is recommended or required. As of this date Mr. Lazar has not released any sensitive or classified information for which he may have had access.

Knapp later checked with Nellis AFB, which denied it had anything to do with the document. Perhaps someone used the computer network to spread false information—but who, and for what purpose?

Anonymous sources are continually coming forth with UFO information. This is especially true with subjects like MJ-12 and Area 51. For example, there is the caller who phoned KVEG radio talk show host Billy Goodman in Las Vegas. Giving himself the pseudonym "Yellow Fruit" and identifying himself as a security officer at the test site, he claimed that Area 51 contains underground bases and tunnels which conceal activities of secret government projects dealing with aliens. Ufologist William F. Hamilton managed to arrange a meeting with Yellow Fruit at Rachel's Bar and Grill near the test site. Yellow Fruit regaled Hamilton with tales of an impending conflict between the "benevolent ones" and another group of small gray aliens, the EBEs. Hamilton subsequently wrote (in an article published in the July 1990 issue of Timothy Green Beckley's *UFO Universe*) that Yellow Fruit is the designation for the first level of security at Area 51. The second level is called Seaspray. The informant said Seaspray is a much harsher security force.

These titles are not fictitious, as one might suspect. In 1987 *Philadelphia Inquirer* reporter Tim Weiner wrote a series of articles on the Pentagon's so-called black budget, spent on classified projects such as secret weapons and intelligence agencies. In 1987, Weiner revealed, the budget totaled 35 billion dollars—11 percent of the Pentagon's entire budget. Weiner wrote that groups named Yellow Fruit, Seaspray and the Delta Force all report their activities to another group known as the Intelligence Support Activity (ISA). According to Congressional investigators, the ISA "was a secret spy squad, with a corps of at least 240 officers, that the Pentagon created in 1981 behind Congress' back." Little is known of these groups' activities.

Many more stories about Area 51 and its secret operations have been told. An accountant claimed to have been visited by Secret Service agents after some Groom Lake employees asked him to prepare their income-tax returns. Other persons only peripherally associated with the site have also claimed similar visits from government agents.

Recent developments in Lazar's life hardly inspire confidence in his reliability or character. In April of this year Las Vegas police officers conducted a search of Lazar's house. According to a report in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, authorities originally sought to press charges against Lazar for living off the earnings of a prostitute, operating a house of prostitution, and aiding and abetting a prostitute. Police sources claimed that Lazar had videotaped customers with hidden cameras and maintained records of their license-plate numbers. Lt. Bill Young of the vice squad told reporter Warren Bates that Lazar had had a previous association with prostitution through an affiliation with a massage parlor in Los Alamos. In due course charges were reduced (or, as the prosecuting attorney put it, negotiated down) to a single count of pandering, a felony. In August a judge sentenced Lazar to three years' probation, 150 hours' community service, and psychotherapy.

Meanwhile, according to Bill Moore's *Focus*, "a civil suit was recently filed against Lazar by Nippon Television (Japan) . . . . Lazar reportedly accepted a sum 'in excess of $5000 plus expenses' in exchange for an exclusive contract with Nippon to go to Japan and tell his story. At the last minute, Lazar cancelled the trip claiming that he had been threatened, and then allegedly pocketed both the cash and the tickets and walked away from the deal." Moore adds, "Even his story about the importance of 'element 115' is questionable in light of the fact that a short piece about such 'transuranic' elements appeared in *Scientific American* shortly before he began telling it."

There can be no doubt that *something* interesting is going on at Area 51. There can also be no doubt that much, most or maybe even all of what we have just recounted is the product of rumor, folklore, speculation and wishful thinking. Some of it may be the creation of free-lance hoaxers or government disinformers. If any of the story is true, of course, a cover-up of earth-shattering proportions is in place. At this point, however, the claims are many and the evidence scant, and there is no reason not to be skeptical. Neither is there any reason not to pay attention to future developments or to investigate where possible. ■

GULF BREEZE DOUBLE EXPOSED

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In the black

by Mark Rodeghier

■■ **Mark Rodeghier is president and scientific director of CUFOS.**

Out There: The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials *by Howard Blum, Simon and Schuster, New York, New York, 1990. 300 pages, $19.95.*

By now many readers of *IUR* must be aware of Howard Blum's much-trumpeted book. Its publisher has vigorously promoted it, and its author has appeared on numerous radio and television programs, including the *Oprah Winfrey Show* (more on this later). In the works, it is claimed, is a possible segment on *60 Minutes*, plus a TV miniseries deal. If rumors can be believed, the book is attracting attention in high places; several congressional staffers reportedly have read the book and wondered about the secrets revealed therein.

In brief, *Out There* is an account of Blum's discovery of a top-secret government committee—the UFO Working Group—and of his investigation into its activities over the past three years. The book contains long sections on SETI (the search for extraterrestrial intelligence conducted by astronomers) and Elmwood, Wisconsin, the proposed site of a UFO Landing Field. Blum claims that the UFO Working Group is covertly investigating the possible existence of extraterrestrial life, with UFO sightings a primary focus of its work.

One would expect that a book with such present and potential future impact would be well-documented and detailed enough so that its claims—which the author admits are rather unbelievable—would be strongly persuasive. Such a book would have a long list of interviewees, with names and dates, and it would include a comprehensive list of sources and footnotes. At the very least, one would expect the book to have an index, making it useful as a reference. An index, after all, is the *sine qua non* of any serious book. But perhaps Blum's book is not so serious and carefully-crafted as the author would have the reader believe. Or perhaps the publisher put fewer of its resources into the project than into the publicity. In any event, this "stunning expose of our government's clandestine activities and meticulously documented account" (to quote the dust jacket blurb) lacks footnotes, an index, and a list of interviewees. The "incredible research" (another quote, this from Sidney Sheldon, hardly an authority on government covert activities) that went into this book may well have occurred, and then again, it may well have not. The reader cannot fail to be underwhelmed by the book's claims compared to its performance.

These are no idle quibbles. Just as distressing is Blum's penchant for getting his facts wrong. Here are two examples, taken more or less at random. The first is trivial but indicative. Although Blum conducted lengthy interviews with Bill Moore and Phil Klass and even includes the MJ-12 document as an appendix to the text, he incorrectly states that the Roswell crash happened 75 miles *northeast* of Roswell, not northwest.

The second error is more telling. While discussing an aborted 1983 Air Force Intelligence plan to review government UFO documents, Blum passes on without comment the claims of Maj. Gen. James C. Pfautz, USAF, Ret., that the cost of the UFO task force—about five million dollars—could not be hidden in the Air Force Intelligence budget because Congress had to be informed of any expenditure over three million dollars. For anyone who is aware of the government's billions of dollars in secret (black) spending that is hidden from Congress by simply giving a line item in the budget a vague title (like "Selected Activities"), the idea that Pfautz had a problem hiding five million dollars is absurd. The Stealth Bomber's costs of billions of dollars were concealed in just this manner. Blum's unquestioning acceptance of Pfautz's story is quite troubling. Why doesn't Blum know what is common knowledge to any student of the operations of the military and intelligence community's black programs?

Blum, twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize for his work at the *New York Times*, has written three other books, including a much-ballyhooed history of the Walker family spy case of the 1980s. For someone with such a distinguished reportorial background, his problems with the facts are puzzling, perhaps indicative of a rush to publication.

That suspicion is bolstered by the absence of in-depth analysis. The most egregious example is Blum's general failure to place the alleged UFO Working Group in any historical context, or to discuss why its existence *does not* mean that the government has secretly begun a study of the possibility of extraterrestrial life at the instigation of the highest levels of authority. An explanation of this last point will both clarify Blum's lack of perspective and further an understanding of how secret projects operate.

Secret projects

Let's begin with what, at first reading, seems the most critical question: does the UFO Working Group exist? I contend that while the answer is undoubtedly most important, of even more significance would be the answers to these questions: if the UFO Working Group exists, to whom does it report, and which agencies of government and officials receive and consider its reports? If, for example, the UFO Working Group is nothing but the one-man show of Col. Harold E. Phillips, the founder of the group, then it means little either to the government or to those of us interested in UFOs. But if the UFO Working Group reports regularly to the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (where Col. Phillips is based) and other high-ranking members of the intelligence community, and if these agencies and officials support its work and deem its findings useful, then the Working Group is indeed important and worthy of our serious attention.

The government spends huge amounts of money every year on projects that other people *in government* find absurd. One need only recall here Sen. William Proxmire's Golden Fleece awards, which he gave to various research projects supported with public funds. During the 1980s military spending in this country increased at a rate far greater than inflation or other government spending. Much of this increase, as documented in Tim Weiner's recent book *Blank Check*, went for black projects, projects whose true nature and, oftentimes, overall funding go unreported even to Congress, let alone the American people.

In this atmosphere, it is not difficult for someone in the military at a high level to initiate a modest program which does not require the approval of the head of any agency. Nor would such a project require congressional or presidential approval. This may seem odd, but it is true. Thus it is entirely plausible that Col. Phillips, who seems to have some clout at the Pentagon, had the wherewithal to make the UFO Working Group a reality with a minimum of fuss and bother. The Working Group, as reported by Blum, consists of only 17 individuals from the National Security Agency, CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, Army, and Air Force. It is, moreover, really a committee, one that is not empowered by any agency with any specific mission. I can only conclude from the evidence so far that the formation of such a group in February 1987 is neither especially implausible nor particularly important.

It is true that the government—read Air Force—gave up its public UFO investigation (I use the term loosely) with the demise of Project Blue Book in late 1969. But that would not have stopped the initiation, by someone in the government with the requisite power and influence, of a small-scale review of the possible existence of extraterrestrial intelligence at any time afterwards. Government is not monolithic in its operations.

So if the very existence of a UFO Working Group is not startling, the key question then becomes which agencies, if any, have authorized the Group's work and pay attention to its findings. This issue certainly doesn't seem to have occurred to Blum, who never raises it directly. Moreover, from what we can infer from the book, my best guess is that the UFO Working Group is operating in a vacuum, writing reports only for its members.

These surmises are complicated by curious omissions. For example, Blum nowhere mentions the annual budget for the Working Group. But when asked about this in his appearance on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* (one attended by Don Schmitt, George Eberhart, and me), he immediately answered, "Fifty million dollars." While not a large sum, this is certainly not pocket change as government UFO investigations go, and the figure should certainly have been included in the book to bolster Blum's claims. It is also odd that the UFO Working Group's members seem unaware of the French government's GEPAN project, in existence since the mid-1970s, whose mission is to investigate UFO reports. Any legitimate UFO inquiry would contact, even if covertly, other governments' projects.

To summarize, I believe it fair to conclude that the UFO Working Group (if it exists) is the personal creation of Col. Harold E. Phillips, that it has no true institutional mandate, and that its findings have little influence on government policy. One more indication of this is that while the Working Group was up in arms about the plans of SETI scientists to make public any detection of extraterrestrial signals, the SETI community and the *government* have blithely proceeded with such plans. In the past year or two, representatives of the State Department, NASA, and university scientists have drafted a "Declaration of Principles Concerning Activities Following the Detection of Extraterrestrial Intelligence." One of its protocols states that the discoverer of an extraterrestrial signal should "inform observers throughout the world" without delay.

That said, it is not correct to conclude that the UFO Working Group is of no potential consequence, or that its work will always be ignored by the intelligence community and government. Many large programs spring from small beginnings, and such programs grow chiefly for two reasons. Either a program's agenda matches larger political goals, or its findings are important and noteworthy. So far, the UFO Working Group fails on both counts.

It is possible, nevertheless, that the Working Group may yet come to the attention of Congress, but not in the manner Col. Phillips envisioned. Although in the book

Blum says hardly a word about the government's clandestine use of public funds to support UFO research, on radio and TV he has waxed indignant on the topic. On the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, he asked listeners to let their congressional representatives know that the American public is demanding an accounting of how its money is being used on UFO investigations. Such demands, he said, could eventually lead to a Congressional inquiry. As Blum stated in an interview in the *New York Times*, "What the government is doing with taxpayers' money is important, and that is what my book is about." Maybe so, but that message hardly comes across loud and clear in the book.

His book instead concludes on a curious note, a sort of New Age romance novel whose heroes pursue the quest for extraterrestrials, even if they follow different paths. This is no better exemplified than in this quote from the final chapter: "This is a tale, then, where history is being made by men and women who dare to ask questions [that] they know cannot yet be answered." No strident calls for congressional inquiries or bureaucratic oversight here. Instead we have a celebration of visionaries, shunned in their time, who believe they are ultimately correct and have the patience to wait for vindication.

As one of those persons he is describing, I am not unmoved by Blum's work. I found particularly interesting his comparisons between SETI scientists and ufologists, whom he places on the same plane in their "decision to act on their romantic ideals and daydreams about other worlds." My own experience and observations confirm that the *motives* of ufologists and SETI researchers are often identical. This would be denied by many scientists, but a close reading of David Swift's newbook *SETI Pioneers* will dispell any doubts.

Elmwood revisited

My admiration for selected portions of Blum's book does not extend to his failure to provide an in-depth analysis or to consider alternate scenarios concerning the true story behind the UFO Working Group. Blum accepts the accounts of the Working Group's projects with hardly a nod to their inherent implausibility. The case of Elmwood, Wisconsin, is the most egregious.

Blum's sources told him that in 1988 the UFO Working Group was looking for that one sighting that was highly promising and could be investigated thoroughly. After considering the Gulf Breeze events and the boomerang sightings in New York and Connecticut, the Working Group decided that the many sightings in Elmwood were the opportunity for which it had been waiting. And so, in its infinite wisdom, the Working Group sent two CIA operatives disguised as NASA engineers—no, *that* wouldn't draw any attention, would it?—to Elmwood to spy on the residents.

We at CUFOS are well aware of the activities and sightings that have occurred at Elmwood. Don Schmitt, CUFOS Director of Special Investigations, lives in Wisconsin and has talked with many Elmwood residents. He and George Eberhart actually attended UFO Days '88, the same event allegedly attended by the two CIA operatives under NASA cover. We have learned that the UFO reports in Elmwood are nothing special, that UFOs don't appear more often in that locale than elsewhere, and that most of the sightings that have occurred have been mundane and poorly-documented. No special attention has been devoted by either MUFON or CUFOS to the investigation of the Elmwood reports.

I doubt that the UFO Working Group actually sent investigators to Elmwood. But even if it did, why would the Working Group spend its limited resources on such a dubious enterprise? Of course, we don't know, partially because Blum neither closely inquires of his contacts nor discusses the question in the text. When questioned on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, he allowed as how the government does lots of silly and questionable things with our money, and maybe this was another example. That may well be the case, but he certainly doesn't raise any cautions in the book about the Elmwood investigation. Anyone who had read widely in the UFO literature or who had spoken with knowledgeable authorities would not have let this incident pass without asking a number of hard questions.

It is clear that hard questions—or even many soft to medium ones—never got asked of many to whom Blum should have addressed them. Blum simply skimped on his homework, and it shows. He notes that he interviewed over 212 individuals for the book, but I know of no interviews with anyone from CUFOS or the Fund For UFO Research. Any knowledgeable ufologist could have alerted him to the folly of jaunts to Elmwood. On the other hand, even expert help may not have been enough, since Blum has little to say on the folly of the Working Group's secret investigation of the SETI program, although he did talk with a few SETI researchers.

Blum also seems quick to take credit for what others have accomplished. I find especially unfair his claim that he conducted a thorough, in-depth investigation into previously classified government documents. In his discussion of government interest in UFOs after Blue Book was terminated, he states that "I soon unearthed proof of a more complicated history," which can be read as meaning that he was the first to discover the evidence. Actually the "proof" to which he refers consists of the many documents released through FOIA petitions *by ufologists*, such as the overflights of SAC bases in the fall of 1975. He got his information, as he states in a "A Note on Sources," from Lawrence Fawcett and Barry Greenwood, authors of *Clear Intent*, but this prior research should have been acknowledged in the text.

In the end I suppose it isn't terribly important that Blum did not talk with CUFOS or that he got his attribu-

continued on page 23

A photograph and its aftermath

by I. Scott

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In the July/August 1988 issue of *IUR*, in my article "Fear and Ambiguity in Massachusetts," I recounted an experience my sister Sue Postle and I shared over the period of an hour on July 13, 1968, when we observed a UFO over Massachusetts. During that time I photographed the object, using a Polaroid model 250, with a three-element, 114mm, f/8.8 lens and a shutter speed controlled by an electronic eye. The film was 3000 ASA black and white.

I took a total of five photographs, but only one showed the UFO. I don't know why the others did not turn out; perhaps I did not focus the camera properly in the dark. When I took the photograph, we were watching an object lighted with blinking squares having the appearance shown in Fig. 1. Its blinking pattern was such that some or all of the squares would be lighted for a period of time and then for another period of time none of the squares would be lighted, making a blinking pattern. At the time I took the picture, the object was at such a distance that the individual squares were beyond our visual resolution. Therefore, as the object moved and blinked, it should have presented the appearance shown in Fig. 2, which depicts a point source moving from right to left (east to west) and blinking twice. The photographic trace (which is enlarged here) appeared as in Fig. 3, however.

I am certain this photograph was of the object because I didn't take pictures when traffic lights showed in my view finder. Also the blinks on the photograph were approximately where I expected them to be vertically and horizontally. I believe that I controlled the shutter time manually rather than used the camera's electronic eye. I had experience using this camera with nighttime star photographs and could roughly estimate the time needed for a time exposure. Since the light from the moving object was brighter than that of stars, I did not believe my shutter would respond quickly enough for me to take several photographs.

Fig. 3, the actual photograph of the two blinks, did not look like Fig. 2, the appearance that I expected the photograph to have. One reason for this is that Fig. 3 shows a vertical undulating movement during the two blinks, whereas the trace in Fig. 2 is straight. The difference is easy to explain: when I made the photograph, I didn't have time to stabilize the camera and thus made hand-held time exposures. The vertical oscillating motion in Fig. 3 is the result of small hand movements during the time exposure. The object did not move up and down.

But another difference appears between Fig. 2 and Fig. 3. Each of the blinks in Fig. 3 is composed of a double trace, whereas the blinks in Fig. 2 are single lines. This difference is more difficult to understand because we saw only one light, not two (as shown in the photograph). The vertical oscillation in each blink provides information about these double traces in that the oscillation pattern of the dimmer trace in each blink is moved a little to the right of the brighter one. For example, in Fig. 4a the brighter blink starts on the right and then makes a dip and a rise, followed by second dip with a slower rise and finishing with a rapid dip and rise, a bright spot at the end, a brief period of being turned off and then a small point of light. This pattern is repeated in the dimmer blink, which (although to the right) turns on at approximately the beginning of the second rise, then follows the sharp dip and rise, and then extends in a very shallow dip and rise (where the first light has turned off). What this means is that although we could see only one light source blinking on and off, the camera had photographed the light from two blinking sources, abright one and a dimmer one.

In order to investigate why I had photographed a light source that neither of us had seen, I questioned the Polaroid company. It said my camera system is sensitive to a 230 nanometer (nm) wavelength in the ultraviolet (uv) spectrum. The lowest light frequency the human eye can detect, however, is around 400 nms. Thus if there had been a light source on the object emitting light at a frequency between 400 nm and 230 nm, the camera would photograph it, but we would not have seen it. Therefore the presence of a light source radiating in the uv spectrum below the range of sensitivity of the human eye would explain why there were the two traces on the photograph: the object apparently had a light that was not in the visible spectrum. (I learned that airplane lights are all supposed to be within the visible range except for military aircraft with lasers. I don't know whether military aircraft were equipped with lasers in 1968.)

The brighter photographic trace seemed to blink on

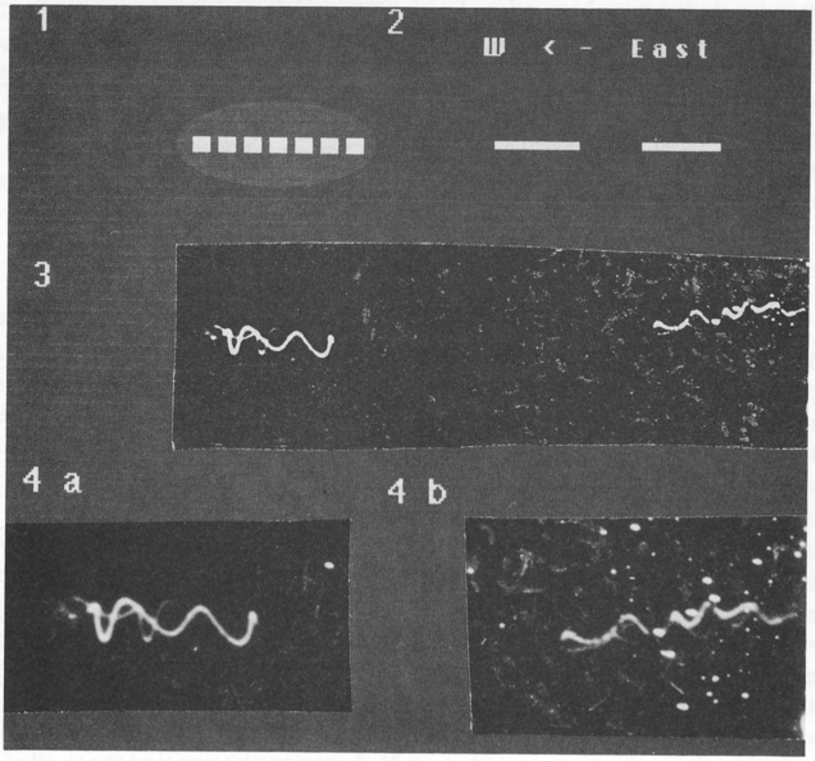

Fig. 1. A computer sketch made from witness' drawings. Fig. 2. The object's expected photographic trace (during two blinks and moving from east to west). Fig. 3. The object's actual photographic trace. Fig. 4. Enlargements of each object's blinks. (The random spots are photographic imperfections.)

and off suddenly each time, whereas the dimmer one appeared to come on gradually. Since the blinking pattern we observed was one of a light blinking on and off suddenly, the brighter photographic trace probably represents the visible light. The dimmer one was probably the emission that was out of our visual range. In addition, the object was at a distance at which we were unable to resolve the separate squares with our eyes. The dimmer light, however, appeared to be to the right of (behind) what we thought was the body of the object. Thus the dimmer light may have been on an extension behind the object. It may have been quite a long distance behind the object because the width of the bright trace represents the width of all the windows of the object together. The dim light source is approximately nine times this width.

Other inferences can be drawn from the photograph: (1) The lights were fairly bright, because they appeared bright visually and because my camera system would take several minutes to make time exposures of first magnitude stars. (2) The blinking pattern of the bright light during the two blinks was different, because (even after taking into account that the oscillations of Fig. 4a are deeper than those in 4b) it appears that b is longer than a. Also, at the far left of a, the light appears to have turned off, then quickly flashed on and off again, because of the small spot to the left of the long trace. (3) The object continued in the same direction and probably did not rotate, because the two light sources are the same distance apart during both blinks. (4) The blinking pattern of the bright light differed from that of the dimmer light because the dimmer light switched both on and off later than did the brighter light. It also appeared gradually to increase in intensity, as if the light had brightened right after it came on and right before it turned off. This pattern was not apparent in the dimmer light. The left half of the bright light in 4a appears somewhat brighter than the right half (perhaps more squares were lit here). (5) The object appears to be descending in 4b. But the dim light appears to be at the same elevation as the bright. Thus the object descended with both ends at the same elevation, rather than lowering its front section during the descent.

Since the dim light appeared to be able to increase smoothly in brightness, this variation perhaps resulted from (1) an increase in intensity, such as in a light controlled by a rheostat, or (2) a gradual change into a photographable frequency, such as might happen with a laser changing a variable wavelength emission. My sister reported that when we first sighted the object (from our parked car), a blue light shone down on us and it lit up the interior of the car. Although she was uncertain, she thought that the light came from an end of the object. Perhaps her observation was of the light source that I photographed. In addition, I saw the interior of the car light up with green light twice during our observation. I don't know if these observations were related to the object. Because other UFO reports sometimes include instances of a car or a room filled with light or other unusual appearances and phenomena, I might mention that visible light can be emitted after particles are excited by electrical activity, for example during the aurora borealis. Two possibly relevant additional facts: if the object had one light that was not in the visible range, it could have had others, and (2) lasers can be used to make holograms.

I wish also to mention another incident of possible interest in comparison with other observations of this nature. Within approximately 30 hours after our observation, several other seemingly out-of-the-ordinary events took place. As with the rest of this account, however, I don't know whether the events were truly unusual or just an odd combination of normal circumstances. We arrived at my sister's dorm at 6:00 a.m. on July 14 and slept till noon. I wanted to leave then but waited to hear from my co-workers who were expecting a ride back. I left at around 6:00 p.m. and arrived at my Washington, D.C., apartment around 11 o'clock. As I unpacked, I noticed that my toothbrush was missing. I scoured the apartment searching for it (I had recently moved and had only a mattress and a chair). I retired around midnight. Soon I began to hear sounds as if someone were walking in my bedroom. The sounds would start, go a few steps, then stop. I was used to hearing neighbors and heard the usual apartment noises. Later I check and learned that nothing unusual had happened that night.

Although I was afraid, I soon went to sleep. My alarm (which had been set for 6:00 a.m.) rang. I got up and started breakfast. Then I realized it was too dark for six o'clock on a summer morning. The clock said 1:30. Although I continued to hear walking sounds, I went back to sleep. Later the alarm went off, and I got up—only to find it was only 2:30. I checked the windows to make sure they were locked and put my chair against the door. The alarm rang again at 3:30, 4:30 and (possibly) 5:30. None of this made sense to me. If I were setting the alarm, I would need to turn on a light. The light was a 100-watt bulb by my mattress. This much light would have awakened me. Also the knob used for setting the alarm was broken off. I normally set it with pliers. I was surprised that each time it had been set at exactly 30 minutes after the hour. I thought my fingers should have been sore from twisting the broken cord with sufficient pressure to set the clock precisely. Although quite frightened, I went to sleep each time after the alarm.

That morning I was frightened and worried about losing my job. I had a high security clearance (above Top Secret) and feared that if I were developing a mental disorder, I would lose my position immediately. At 6:00 a.m., as I was rehearsing ways to disguise insanity at work, my toothbrush flew across the room—a journey of

continued on page 23

THE UFO PHENOMENON IN THE 1990S

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Abduction and deception

by Budd Hopkins

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In January 1988 two young women students at American University in Washington, D.C., attended a party in a suburb of the city. Around 2:00 a.m., while driving home through an unfamiliar area of warehouses and small factories, they realized they were lost. But then they suddenly came upon a most peculiar sight: a six-car pile-up in the middle of an intersection.

Six vehicles lay smashed together, and yet there was not a soul in sight: no police, no paramedics, no spectators, no drivers, no passengers, no injured people—nothing but a deserted six-car pile-up in the middle of a traffic-free intersection. There were no emergency vehicles, no flashing lights, no flares, no sirens, no sounds. The two women felt uneasy about the eerie stillness of this abandoned tableau, and though they slowed down at the scene of the accident, they did not stop. They arrived home unusually late that night, puzzled and confused by an experience that made no sense.

A few months later, in the spring, the young woman who had been driving that night read my book *Intruders* and wrote me a letter. In her note Kerry described only a childhood missing-time experience and a later series of disturbing, UFO-related dreams. We met, I worked with her, and eventually a number of UFO-abduction encounters emerged, events that had taken place at intervals throughout her life. We had known one another for at least a year before she told me about the late-night drive in Washington and the peculiar six-car accident she remembered having seen. She remarked that this incident had always bothered her and that now, in the light of other things she was recalling, she decided to tell me about it. What we ultimately uncovered about this incident has added important new information to our knowledge of the abduction phenomenon and the deceptiveness that is so often part of it.

On its face everything about this story of a deserted six-car pile-up was implausible; yet I knew Kerry to be a credible witness with a good memory. I suspected, of course, that the massive wreck never took place and that her recollection was a cover story imposed to mask a UFO abduction and the period of missing time it entailed. The first step in my investigation was a telephone call to Ann (pseudonym), Kerry's companion that night, to obtain her side of the story. Ann recalled the odd six-car pile-up well; significantly, she had even described it to her mother the week she remembered its having occurred. She corroborated virtually every detail Kerry had related, adding that she often wondered why they hadn't stopped at the accident scene. "Someone might have been hurt," she said, "but we truly didn't see anybody in any of the cars." I asked if they had later reported to the police; they had not and that, too, seemed odd, to all three of us. The whole experience, Ann felt, had been almost dreamlike.

To explore the matter further, Ann and Kerry separately agreed to undergo regressive hypnosis. The results of these sessions were both surprising and important. The two women's mutually supportive accounts indicate that though Kerry was abducted, Ann was not; she was apparently held in the by-now-familiar "switched-off" state of suspended animation during the time her friend was taken into a hovering UFO. Under hypnosis Kerry recalled first seeing the six-vehicle wreck down the road, then slowing down and finally stopping. Several UFO occupants approached their stalled vehicle while Ann stared straight ahead, unmoving. The aliens took Kerry out and walked her into what she saw now as a UFO instead of a deserted automobile accident. After a typical abduction examination she was returned and told that *what she saw she will remember as a six-vehicle accident*. She got back into the car next to a still-staring Ann, started the motor, and drove off as her friend's normal animation returned.

Ann's account under hypnosis began with the scene of the wrecked automobiles and faded away as she remembered their own car's slowing to a stop. (Before hypnosis, as I have pointed out, neither woman had recalled the car's stopping.) Ann's very next memory was of their car's moving once more, driving away from the accident scene as she looked back through the rear window. The most important new aspect of this case, therefore, involves Ann, the nonabductee bystander, rather than Kerry, the one actually abducted that night. Since I first encountered the phenomenon of the screen memory nearly 15 years ago, I have known that UFO occupants can alter the memories of abductees at will.

But this Washington case establishes a major new corollary: identical screen memories—plausible or outrageous—can be imposed with equal ease upon nonabductee witnesses to the same encounter. Inconvenient witnesses present no problems, and thus abductions in semipublic areas can remain covert.

Some researchers have defined a screen memory as an image *invented by the abductee himself or herself* to soften the impact of disturbing UFO reality upon one's own psyche. The Washington case clearly refutes the idea that screen memories are always self-generated; in this instance an identically detailed, outlandish screen memory was obviously imposed upon two different persons, one an abductee and another merely her companion, apparently as a cover story to mask their late arrival at home. One cannot escape the conclusion that this image of a nonexistent six-car pile-up was "played into their minds" from the outside by UFO occupants bent on deception. And this incident is only one of a number of similar cases I have looked into since that time; all underline the extraordinary mind-control powers at the disposal of UFO occupants, available for use on anyone at any time.

Alien appearances have been disguised hundreds of ways, most often by externally-imposed imagery. Though the range of screen memories is surprisingly broad, animal images predominate. One abductee, Virginia Horton, remembered talking with an intelligent gray "deer," and in a West Coast abduction case a woman described a five-foot-tall "owl" which walked down the highway and peered at her over the hood of her jeep.

A different pattern of deception occurs when abductees are assured by the UFO occupants that they are safe and will not be hurt, only to have instruments penetrate their abdomens or needles thrust up into their nostrils, procedures that sometimes cause blinding flashes of pain. By contrast I remember with gratitude that my dentist used to warn me of coming pain: "Now this may hurt a little, but only for an instant." He was usually right, and I appreciated his honesty. UFO occupants, however, are not hesitant to promise safety and deliver pain. Telling the truth to their subjects seems as irrelevant to them as it would be for us to be honest with our laboratory animals.

Though the aliens do not gratuitously inflict pain, they surely do not feel the need either to warn us of it, to explain their procedures or to ask our permission first. And since the abduction process seems invariably to begin in early childhood or even infancy, this kind of communication would be impossible in any case. By the time an abductee is old enough to understand what might be going on, he or she has already been thoroughly trained and conditioned and is by habit, one might say, putty in alien hands. Sadly, deception is as much a part of the UFO phenomenon as are flashing lights, examination tables, and small gray figures.

As we now know, researchers have seen in hundreds of cases evidence of the profound interest UFO occupants have exhibited in basic human sexuality. This alien curiosity extends to both the physical and emotional aspects of reproduction and to both the biological and psychological processes of parenting. Because of this long-term interest in human affairs, we can assume that the aliens are aware of the enormous power of our instinctive maternal and paternal feelings.

In this context it has been especially disturbing to me to hear so frequently a particular kind of report: many abductees describe having been told, from their earliest childhood abduction recollections onward, that certain UFO occupants are their *real parents*. A very young abductee is often systematically trained to believe, in effect, that the woman who lives at home, on earth, is a false mother, an unrelated impostor. The young abductee often holds this subtly-imposed concept well on into later life, passively accepting the idea that the woman from whom one was physically delivered after nine months of shared lifeblood, the woman by whom one was nursed and protected and nurtured and loved, is an impostor. The one who *truly* loves the child, according to this idea, is one of those doing the abducting and conducting the physical experiments! And the basis for this often very strongly-held belief is solely—*solely*—the word of an alien.

How can one judge the truth of this proposition if, since infancy, the young, impressionable abductee has been told again and again by obviously untrustworthy source that his or her *real* parent or parents are not of this world? Even if one grants the possibility of genetic engineering in such cases, with the involvement of alien genes in the abductee's conception, the human being who bore and reared that child is in no way an impostor. Considering all we know about the UFO occupants' intense study of human parenting and the patterns of deception routinely employed during abductions, one comes to an inescapable conclusion: these stories of alien parentage offer a clever and efficient way of rendering young abductees more tractable, more easily handled. "Do what we tell you to do, love us, obey us and give us your loyalty, because after all *we're your real parents*."

Essentially these alien-parentage tales should be regarded as lies—lies both more complex and infinitely more dangerous than implanted stories of six-car pile-ups and five-foot owls. Sadly, one can only guess how many times these subversive accounts have damaged the fragile texture of family life around the world.

Another equally dangerous but much less frequently reported story apparently told by UFO occupants to their very young abductees is this: "You have no right to object to our taking you because *you've already given your permission*." Often this self-serving explanation is fleshed out with imagery having to do with an "earlier life" or even, in a few rare cases, a previous life as an alien. Otherwise intelligent people, who might regard with deep suspicion any such statement coming from the mouth of a mere fellow human being, frequently accept "permission accounts" as the unvarnished truth—especially if they emerge from a recollected encounter with UFO occupants. And there are some in whom this has been so deeply ingrained that they actively try to press this belief onto others, telling abductees who do not agree with them that they have no right to be angry or frightened or upset if they or their children are being seized against their wills. "You gave your permission," they insist, "either now or in some earlier life, whether you remember it or not." Just as some people do not believe in rape—"she was asking for it," "subconsciously she wanted it"—these avid permission-believers will not accept as true an abductee's statement that he or she did not give permission for these abductions, would never do so under any conditions, and desperately wants the abductions to stop.

As an illustration of the absurdity of the unremembered-permission idea, a young man was once passionately maintaining to an older female abductee the theory that in an earlier life she had somehow unconsciously granted the aliens permission to seize her whenever they chose. The abductee was naturally angered by this assertion, and after a moment she demanded that the young permission-believer immediately hand over to her his car keys, bankbook and wallet. Taken aback, he refused to hand over anything. The woman then explained herself in this way: "I remember, even if you don't, that in a previous reincarnation you promised to give me all your worldly possessions whenever I chose to ask for them, simply as an exercise in humility." After all, any unremembered permission or promise from an "earlier life" is exactly as valuable and exactly as unprovable as any other.

After years of investigation we know many things about the *modus operandi* of the UFO-abduction phenomenon. We know that deception is central to the covert nature of alien behavior. Within the abduction experience something much more efficient than human brainwashing takes place routinely, and abductees' recollections can be altered at will. Human subjects can be made to vividly see things that were never there, like talking deer and six-car automobile accidents. As children abductees can be systematically conditioned to believe that their real parents are impostors and that they themselves are literally the children of their captors. Normally rational adult abductees can be trained to feel that once, in some vague, earlier life, they gave permission for the aliens to do whatever they wish for all time, to themselves and even to their own children, no matter how damaging or demeaning.

We know that UFO occupants have their own agenda and that we are not being offered much trustworthy information about their goals, their nature or their methods. We know that they do not seem to be either deliberately hurting us or deliberately helping us. They seem to be neither malevolent nor benign. As human beings we know infinitely more about ourselves than we do about such shadowy, elusive entities as UFO occupants. We know that these abduction experiences, as recalled by the subjects themselves, are often frightening, sometimes painful and certainly psychologically damaging. We know that as humans we must support rather than hurt one another, but we do not always behave that way.

A woman with whom I have worked recently has had a series of abduction encounters in which she was paralyzed, examined and, among other things, forced to have intercourse with an unknown male abductee. She has recalled another experience in which she was immobilized while her 13-year-old daughter was abducted, for what purposes she could only guess. This woman, understandably, is feeling angry, frightened and powerless. In a search for help and understanding she attended a New England abductee support group in which she was told in no uncertain terms that she had no right to express those emotions. She was informed that it was wrong to feel such "negative" things since she had undoubtedly given her permission to the aliens to do as they wished, even though she could not recall having done so. To make matters worse, she was told that as an abductee she was herself part alien, "one with the Visitors."

Now, those who have enough blind faith to believe such things can believe them, but no one has a right to try to inflict these ideas on unwilling others, such as a young mother whose adolescent child has recently been abducted. The attempt to scold an abductee into blaming herself for the pain and anger she was experiencing at alien hands is nothing less than an act of sadism.

Our responsibilities are great. We must continue our investigations on two fronts—as objective scientists, gathering evidence and searching for patterns, and as de facto healers, seeking to bind up the psychic wounds inflicted on those who have been regularly undergoing such disturbing events. But at each step of the way, until new evidence surfaces about the nature of UFO abductions, we need to avoid falling into either of two equally miring ideological bogs. First, we should never regard ourselves as the *enemies* of UFO occupants; that is a sure path to paranoia and despair. We must remain open to the possible value of what many people have described as the broadening nature of the UFO-contact experience. To recognize the negative aspects of abductions is not to assume that those unsettling reports were intended.

A homely example will explain more fully what I mean. Suppose you are sitting on a bus, calmly reading your newspaper, but your foot extends a bit into the aisle. Suddenly there's an excruciating pain; you look up and see a 300-pound blind man standing on your foot. It is clear that he did not intend to hurt you, but that doesn't help the pain or change the fact that you now have a broken toe. In 15 years of abduction research I have

continued on page 22

UFOs as time travelers

by Michael D. Swords

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The range of UFO phenomena is interesting, to say the least. Even the archskeptics agree to that. And these phenomena are so odd as to demand extraordinary, deep and interdisciplinary research. Some types of reports differ so wildly from one another that they cry out for different explanatory schemes. And yet many UFO commentators keep getting caught in the trap of picking a single favorite idea and ferociously applying it to every case that crosses their path. And woe to those who see it otherwise.

So we labor in a field of ideological explosive mines, regularly treading on each other's pet obsessions. This article is going to try *not* to steal ufology away from ardent ETHers, or tectonic stressers or paranormalites or secret projectors or psychosocialites or hoax-and-hallucinators. The author is perfectly happy to live in a universe populated by all those phenomena and is even willing to live without time travel at all. What follows is offered for what it is worth, either as a diversion from your busy day or as a small step toward solving a piece of the UFO mystery.

Time and modern science

At least since Einstein's special theory of relativity, the news has been there for all of us to read. When it comes to reality, we don't know what we're talking about. We have no proper model for the nature of our universe. True, we struggled on through this century pretending that a commonsense concept of spatial dimensions could contain all there is and ultimately explain forces, fields, the root of phenomena; but we were kidding ourselves. The growing awareness of the power and weirdness of quantum theory has finally made a major dent in our cozy naivete about why things happen, but the doubts should have been voiced long ago. Some few examples:

(a) The good Prof. Einstein said that the speed of light was a constant and could not be superseded in travel in space time. Why? What was so special about light? How did it relate to the structure, the fundamentals, of universal reality? What the heck *is* it, anyway? No answers, but we went ahead basing a whole physics on it. There was nothing *wrong* with this in scientific terms, but there was something a little misleading. We in the general educated public were given the impression that the physicists really had a good model of reality—a commonsense look-and-see model—when actually they knew little or nothing about the machinery and ultimate architecture of the world. They know some bits of the how but almost nothing of the why.

(b) We in ufology know well of the speed-of-light limitation and its associated phenomena. According to the equations, bodies moving close to light speed become tremendously massive, vanishingly short, and time-passage shrinks to zero. Well, now, doesn't *that* make a lot of sense! Of course it makes nearly no sense without a model of a larger universe which could accommodate those apparent absurdities. What sort of model would be that?

Take "vanishingly short." One evening, as I meditated on this relativistic bizarreness (we profs sometimes do strange things for fun), it seemed to my nonphysical mind that the fast-speeding objects were acting as if they were dropping out of our space (i.e., you couldn't detect them fully in the space dimension any longer). Fortunately I know a lot of people smarter than I am, and one of them is Dr. Harold Puthoff, a creative physicist working at the Institute for Advanced Physics in Austin, Texas. Hal said surprisingly, yes, that's exactly what the Lorentz transformation equations act like—like a physical object beginning to direct itself out of space-time, like a hypothenuse of a right triangle rising up, while the baseline shortens. But rising up out of space-time to where? or what reality?

Take "tremendously massive." As the speeding object gets faster, it will become more and more massive until at the speed of light its mass becomes infinite. Sure. That statement doesn't make sense even with a better model of reality. Supermassive, yes; infinite, no. But what might be happening? Our friend Albert began us thinking about "mass" as deformations or bendings (gravity "wells") in space—the more space was bent, the more gravitational attraction (mass) there was. Let me translate this concept into the sentence that started this paragraph: the faster an object moves, the more it bends space. Even in this unreasonable world, one might ask: bends where? Not up, down or sideways—some other way, some way "outside" the dimensions of space, as if dropping out of space altogether. And the "mass" *doesn't* go to infinity. Long before infinity, the mass-bend, like a black hole, would warp its way into a singularity and disappear. One would think that small cosmic-ray particles might be achieving this all the time as they cruised the magnetic fields of galaxies, and our old universe would be losing weight just like the rest of us, running around in circles. But that is another story.

Take the slowing of time. Now that we have seen the other two Lorentz transformation phenomena behave in accordance with physical objects slipping out of space, doesn't this third time-slowing-to-zero phenomenon seem as if the objects were also slipping out of time? As we speed away and turn elseward into our hyperspatial tunnels, we leave behind our current space and time. For what? There is apparently something else to reality, some great important something else which we've missed (scientifically at least) all these centuries. Is the other reality roiling meaningless chaos? or transcendent divinity? Is it higher dimensions, whatever higher might mean? Or is it "just" other dimensions? Are those other dimensions totally unlike space time, or are they other spaces, other times? Or are several of those possibilities (and unmentioned ones) all part of the grand architecture?

Of course we can't answer these questions yet scientifically. Perhaps we never will. The point is this: those queries, those possibilities, are legitimate. No longer can some self-satisfied academician with an imperfect education and constricted imagination stand unchallenged and lecture us about all that's not true about our universe. As the science has trickled in, the jury has gone out—way, way out, it seems.

True scientists welcome this breath of fresh conceptual air. As long as we are careful to label our hypothesis from our data determinations, there is no harm in flying. And a lot of flying has been done recently. Examples of possible relevance to time theory:

(a) In order to deal with the problem of how the fundamental forces act, theoreticians have invented "superstring" theory which postulates many dimensions lurking beneath space time and controlling the expression of phenomena in our world.

(b) In order to deal with the problem of quantum choice in subatomic particles, theoreticians have invented the many worlds model wherein the universe keeps splitting into multiple universes every time a particle faces an alternative pathin its worldline.

(c) In order to make sense out of the apparent interconnectedness of things across space and time, David Bohm has invented a model of enfolded reality, a Hindu-like universal unity where all past and future expressions of reality are truly enfolded (implicate) in the present.

(d) And there are units of time (kronons) spoken of, within which the temporal *direction* can be anything; tachyons, particles going faster than light (and backwards along timelines); and concepts of antimatter particles as being equivalent to matter going backwards in time.

Through all this there is no model of what time is that has any claim to any superior validity. Some say that time is just an abstract invention to express a series of spatial-reality-states and that, once such a state changed it (and its time), exists no more (i.e., there is no past, only a continually changing now). This is the most commonsensical notion, but common sense is taking a tremendous beating here lately; so we would do well not to be so sure. According to good old Albert, if a fast-flying astronaut moves into the future slower (on his clock) than his twin back home, then more than one timeline is obviously occurring. Whether this "simply" means "parallel realities" which must always ultimately reconnect, or whether this means true separate existing time-states, who knows? In fact, who knows *anything* about those two sentences when it comes down to it (one almost gets paranoid about using the word "when" anymore)?

Einstein wanted us to employ time equally in mathematics as a separate dimension from the three of space. If we take that seriously, it has a "concrete" reality as much as space; therefore a time *dimension* (not just a now) must exist. Is it just the abstract dream of the mathematician? Who knows? If Hugh Everett's many worlds model is correct, the time dimension is enfolded, past and future, in the current reality state. What routes could there be to those other realities? Perhaps the dropping out of space time of special relativity theory hints at such ways.

Time travel technology

If a time dimension exists, or to put it another way, if the universe *maintains* a complete set of the spatial relationships that have existed and will exist along the timeline, then how does one break out of the now in which our consciousness is restricted? People have suggested two different categories of travel: via altered state of consciousness and via physical exits and entries from and to our ordinary space.

Time travel via consciousness may sound a bit too much to swallow for some, but it is the old (if you will pardon the expression) time-honored claims of premonitions and precognitive dreams. Some aficionados of paranormal phenomena would like to apply these odd states of consciousness to UFOs by viewing UFO phenomena as projections of consciousness, perhaps from other space and time dimensions into our reality. Some go so far as to suggest that consciousness can so manipulate energy and matter as to create physical interactive forms (i.e., objects of true substance, not only apparitional in character). Although the new models of consciousness often speak of it as a field, and the new models of reality speak of fields as resident outside normal space in the superstring dimensions, much of these projected-realities concepts can be no more than hopeful intuitions at this time. Still, some people hold out hope of time traveling by such vehicles as lucid-dream states and the like. But perhaps we need not go into the realm of dreams and the paranormal to find a means of time travel.

Science fiction enjoys making interstellar planet-hopping a convenience by employing the concepts of "spacewarps." Physics may be discovering ways to realize that dream and time travel with it. We referred earlier to objects that, as they move close to the speed of light, act as if they were exiting space time. To where? The simplest models would indicate *another* space time, another area in space, perhaps another time. So how does one exit, since no amount of propulsion can get you exactly to light speed as far as we know? Einstein's theory allows "closed time-like lines" in a rotating universe. Measurements of all sorts of objects show rotation to be a strangely uniform property in our universe, leading to the concept of rotating universe in space time. The concept of a closed timelike line is a journey or path one would take not through space but through points in time and back. To accomplish this one would have to pass out of now-space via a singularity (a compressed matter gravity-well) and enter then-space via another one (or perhaps what served as the other end of a hyperspatial tunnel). Several ways of doing this have recently been imagined.

The singularities most in vogue these days are the black holes. If a stellar mass condenses sufficiently to break down all subatomic resistance to its collapse, a singularity (a pointlike mass of tremendous gravity-power) forms at the "bottom" of a hyperspatial well. Objects falling into the well inevitably meet the local gravity monster and simply add their mass to this navigation hazard. If the dead star had been neutrally sitting there in space when the collapse came, there would be no avoiding the beast in the basement of the tunnel, and this hyperspace highway would be the deadest of dead ends. But stars don't just sit there, and for spinning and/or charged stars the final product is quite different.

For the cases of charged black holes and rapidly rotating black holes, a sufficiently speedy and strongly-built spacecraft could plunge into the hyperspace tunnel, negotiate around the deadly singularity and fly out the "other end." To where and when? That is a point of some concern since the math says that such holes are one-way subways only. The destination would be some other space time, perhaps part of our universe, perhaps not—a tolerable solution for the rampant explorer, perhaps, but for communications to us folks at home, not too satisfactory.

Extremely rapidly rotating black holes, however, are a different matter. The "ringwarps," as Dr. Robert Forward calls this structure, allow you to drive through the hyperspatial well into the "hyperuniverse." Whether once there one has any choice where (and when) one exits back into our space time is unknown, but re-entry into our own universe is allowed by the mathematics. This structure, unfortunately, would have to rotate faster than light, but—never fear—if one can build a *charged* rotating black hole ringwarp, the speed required drops considerably. Even then, though, the civilization building these would have to be immensely clever stellar engineers, and magicians at building craft so subtle that they would not perturb and collapse the warp field as they traversed it.

Because of the awesomeness of engineering stellar black holes, others have looked elsewhere for, perhaps, easier project. They have looked at the exact opposite end of reality, the microcosmic subatomic ground of frenzied energy which occupies all space. John Wheeler has described this fundamental foundation of our existence as a very strange arena indeed: a roiling foam of tiny tunnels ("wormholes") connecting and disconnecting random points in the universe. It is the deliberate widening and stabilizing of wormhole tunnels that we have been hearing about lately from the creative mind of Cal Tech physicist Kip Thorne.

Thorne postulates the possibility of opening and stabilizing a wormhole with so-called exotic fields. One such exotic field of current interest is the Casimir effect now being investigated by Hal Puthoff as a mechanism of drawing energyfrom the vacuum. The energy properties of the space between two closely approximated metal plates constitute such an exotic field. The space between the plates becomes electromagnetically emptier than the adjoining spaces outside, and the plates are automatically forced together (the Casimir effect). Using this principle, Thorne has designed on paper a theoretical wormhole space-bridging device, a spacewarp.

The Thorne spacewarp is turned into a time machine with the help of Einstein's special theory. The moving of one end of the wormhole very rapidly in space will slow the clock down, but the other end will proceed normally. The two ends of the hyperbridge are now at different times, and craft could travel both to differences spaces and to a somewhat restricted but nevertheless different time as well. The point is that Thorne has apparently found a potential in our reality for time travel. If such exists, then there must be a true time dimension and perhaps other ways of entering it.

Paradoxes

Some people have argued that none of this can really be possible due to the insurmountable paradoxes that flitting about in time would cause. Some property of the universe would block time travel or at least make paradoxical interactions impossible. Some people have suggested that only "observership" and not physicality would be possible, because the universal timeslot you would try to enter and affect would be full of the worldlines (the energy-matter "histories" and "futures") of the objects that you wished to meddle with, and the energy cost of shifting those worldlines would be insuperable.

Other theorists, such as Thorne, have wondered whether, in the case of his own time device, something in its very nature might prevent time-meddling. For instance, if you flew out one end of the time hole, could one shoot over to the other and stop oneself from going in the first place? Perhaps not. Perhaps the geometries of the universe prevent one from being able to interact at both ends of the tunnel to create such absurdities.

But other visions of reality have seen a simpler, more interesting solution to the paradox problem. We have spoken of the many worlds theory and the quantum splitting universes. Some people envision the universe as the great quantum mechanical wavefront moving along a time dimension. At the "focus" of this wavefront is the most probable universe-state, with less probable universe-states spreading out (probablistically speaking) to the "edges" of possibility. Perhaps the number of universe-states in the great wave is infinite; perhaps the number is condensed into more limited options (by conscious observership). Either way, if the universe has a time dimension (i.e., a set of wavefront states stretching not only in the now but also along the timeline), then the problem of paradoxes is potentially solved. How?

If some futuristic hi-tech idiot decides to go back along the timeline and murder his grandfather (this is the usual macabre scenario brought up), then in the Newtonian concrete one-at-a-time universe this is indeed a problem. It need not be in a quantum wave-front many states universe. As the idiot retreats to the past, he enters not only a universe timeslot, but one embracing a variety of probabilities options. Should he behave himself, he may find himself operating in one of the higher probability states. Should he shoot his grandfather, his surrounding reality state will be reduced to the bizarre fringes of the wave. He may even be able to return forward to his normal universe state, and the probable sequence leading to himself remains unchanged. Is the universe built this way? Who, honestly, given our newfound humility about our ignorance of the superstructure, can say? Until some new information comes to light, time travel is an open option for an advanced intelligent species.

Time travel and ufology

Having said all of that, what does the concept have to offer to ufology? The answer I will leave to you and satisfy myself with some remarks about the time-travelers-from-our-own-species'-future hypothesis.

(A) What's good about it?

If future travelers from our own earth could find a less technically bulky way of traipsing back and forth than we have been describing, then one odd feature of UFO reports might be rationalized right off: the entrance and exit technology. Many UFO reports speak of the sudden appearance and disappearance of objects and entities. This allegedly happens in large open spaces and small enclosed ones and creates a zone of isolation around the phenomenon. Intuitively at least, what better way to accomplish this than by the opening of a hyperspatial "window" of desired size anywhere one wished? Such a window need respect no material structural boundaries and might serve to alter timeflow within it while, say, experimenting or abducting were done. Dave Jacobs is always wondering about the "turned-off" bystanders problem. Perhaps a rapid-entry, altered space-time zone would be one means of accomplishing such stealth.

Many commentators have fretted over the vast distances these ufonauts would have to travel to get here. Although I don't see the problem given the spacewarp technologies we have hinted at, their worries should vanish in the time-travel scenario, since our meddling descendants would have to travel no distance at all. Others have fussed over the movement of these "extraterrestrials" in our own atmosphere. Again there are respectable scientific responses to this, but in the time-travel hypothesis it's their air, too.

In Ronald Story's *Encyclopedia of UFOs* (1980) J. Richard Greenwell writes a nice summary of the various UFO theories, including the time hypothesis. In there he mentions that the "usual" ET, the little guys with the bulb heads, have certain "neotenuous" characteristics which tend to support a time-travel theory. Neoteny is the concept of a species' having a genetic shift which causes it to maintain several of its fetal characteristics into adulthood. Scientists think that this has already happened once in human evolution, from ape-form to hominid, and that a next neotenuous will be not unlike our typical ET; see my article in *MUFON UFO Journal* 212 for details. The further point would be that such a future human might reasonably have some need for a replenishment of wild genes from its former stock, in concert with the alleged reproductive meddling popular in the Hopkins-Jacobs school of thought on abductions. It is in this theory, and in no other in my opinion, that a taking of genetic material might possibly be defensible. Once Hopkins told me of a case wherein the abductee challenged the "ETs" with, "What gives you the right to do this?" The enigmatic reply was, "We *have* the right." A difficult response to understand in any case, but perhaps less so in a theoretical concept where we are all the same species.

(B) What's not so good?

Generally speaking, most of ufology could be crammed into this idea with enough force of imagination, but some would be pretty awkward. The worst (least accommodatable) aspects would be the seeming ignorances, the excessive curiosities, the general "alienness" of the claimed behaviors. Totally unknown glyphics are

continued on page 24

EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

issue of his *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*—much of it written, like many of the stranger letters that used to land on my desk when I worked at *Fate*, in italics, apparently on the theory that words and phrases Roman type would render as merely banal, irrelevant, or crazy will be mistaken for insights when disguised in italics—Klass allows as how:

"*It will be interesting to see how the leaders of the UFO Movement react to Blum's new book.* At least some will claim that Blum's book supports their charge of 'government UFO coverup.' Yet if Blum's basic claims were true, they would show that the U.S. government has *not been withholding knowledge or evidence of ET visitors for more than 40 years, as so often claimed.*

"Logically, those like *William L. Moore, Stanton Friedman, Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt* (CUFOS director of special investigations), and *Jerry Clark* (editor of CUFOS' *International UFO Reporter*), who claim that the government recovered one, or more, crashed flying saucers and ET bodies in New Mexico in the late 1940s should dismiss Blum's book as nonsense.

"But never underestimate the illogic and gullibility of some leading 'UFO-Promoters' (UFOPs). Some will argue that the crashed saucer/alien bodies are so covert that even top CIA and military officials, including those in the Defense Intelligence Agency, are not privy to the 'secret' known to thousands of persons who read '*The Roswell Incident*' and tens of millions of TV viewers . . ." and blah blah blah.

Amusingly, even the UFO Working Group judged it entirely conceivable that it had not been told about a crashed UFO or a project concerned with the study of same; evidently Klass never made it to Chapter 38 of *Out There*. As an FBI agent who participated in the investigation of the MJ-12 papers told Blum, "All we're finding out is that the government doesn't know what it knows. There are too many secret levels." Not even Blum, who should if anybody (because then he could claim he had penetrated the cover-up, not just skirted its edges), advances an argument as zany as Klass'. After all, it ignores one of the basic tenets of classification procedure: compartmentalization, otherwise called need-to-know. In his review Mark Rodeghier remarks that even President Truman was never informed of the Air Force's nuclear-contingency plans and his successor, Dwight Eisenhower, learned of them only late in his Presidency. A secret so explosive as the recovery of alien hardware would be doled out only very stingily, even at the highest levels of the national-security establishment. That is why only retired aviation journalists and professional UFO debunkers, not persons who held or hold security clearances in military or intelligence agencies, argue otherwise, and why they have to use lots of italics as they do so. And Klass is probably the last living American who doesn't know that government secrets sometimes become common public knowledge long before they are formally declassified. The moral of the story, I guess, is that one should never underestimate the illogic and gullibility of some leading "UFO-Phobiacs" (UFOPHs).

Blum's book is hardly "nonsense." It is, however, flawed and incomplete, an opportunity wasted because the author had not the fortitude, energy, or knowledge to do the job right. The simple fact of the matter is that the best UFO researchers, those individuals from whose very presence Blum shrinks and whom he does not understand at all, are way ahead of him. The true cover-up story, as ufologists such as Schmitt, Randle, Friedman, and Moore determined from a great deal of hard work in the field, begins in 1947 at Roswell. Even Klass as much as acknowledges that. How else to account for his need to resort to implausible *a priori* claims, when the growing mass of puzzling, documented evidence calls for a far more substantive response, such as to-the-point counterarguments garnered from real investigation and serious analysis? The answer, of course, is that Klass has none of the latter to offer, and thus, as the cover-up saga rolls on and Blum's brief moment in it recedes into a footnote, we may confidently expect plenty of italics in our future.

—Jerome Clark

Abduction — *continued from page 17*

encountered not a shred of evidence that suggests UFO occupants are innately evil. But sadly, in the meantime I've seen the equivalent of hundreds upon hundreds of broken toes.

The second ideological trap is more seductive. We must vehemently guard against letting our optimistic hopes about the UFO phenomenon obscure our sense of reality. There are those who tell us, on no firm evidence, that the UFO occupants must surely be friendly, helpful and benign, and so we should overlook our fear and pain and simply trust the Space Brothers and welcome the Visitors. This is a little like offering the 300-pound blind man your other foot on the grounds that after all, he's probably a nice, well-meaning person. Of all the things we know about the UFO occupants, two features stand out: their innate deceptiveness and their power to implant self-serving ideas and images at will. One should no more trust an alien assurance of any kind than one would trust an Air Force handout on UFO reality.

We owe our allegiance only to our fellow human beings. Without regarding UFO occupants as foes, we must never allow ourselves to be used or misled by them to the point that we become mere apologists for alien depredations. Human beings must come first, on every front. ■

Black — *continued from page 11*

tions wrong. What *is* important is that Blum get his facts straight and that he try to make sense of what he has learned from his investigation. This is where the book finally fails.

A government cover-up?

Most of the information in the book comes from Blum's own investigation, the work of others, published documents, or unclassified government records. Little comes directly from the UFO Working Group. Thus Blum had to retrace the steps of the Working Group's investigators at Elmwood and with the SETI scientists to learn what he could about these subjects. That does not excuse the inordinate portion of the book devoted to these two topics. Since Blum learned not much at Elmwood and the SETI research history could have been gleaned from published sources, the 107 pages (out of 279 text pages) given over to these two topics amount to padding.

My surmise is that Blum was forced to add the excess verbiage when the information he hoped to amass about the UFO Working Group was not forthcoming. With book contract already signed, Blum was forced to plunge ahead, even if he knew little about the truly secret activities. His sources on the Working Group may have promised more than they delivered.

For those of us who have devoted a great deal of effort to the investigation of UFO cover-ups and to consideration of their implications, the section of the book on the MJ-12 documents is of special interest. Although the book does not make this clear, Blum now believes that the documents are a hoax, but he is unsure as to who the perpetrators might be. What I found most comforting and familiar was Blum's description of the UFO Working Group's own consideration of the documents, because it mirrored many a discussion I have had with colleagues. We have oscillated between various conflicting hypotheses about the documents: a complex fraud, a crude hoax, authentic records of the government cover-up. The Working Group went through the same mental gymnastics, and its intelligence experience clearly did not help in ferreting out the truth.

To his credit, Blum does consider the chance that the Working Group is actually a cover for the real secret project, and that the MJ-12 documents are either (1) records from that project or (2) documents released to obfuscate the project's existence and the importance of the Roswell crash. Considering the possibility, however, is not the same as discussing it in depth or making concerted efforts to find the whereabouts of the real, secret group.

No one should doubt that the government has secrets that it keeps, sometimes from even the highest authorities in the land. Until the end of President Eisenhower's term, neither he nor President Truman before him had seen the full nuclear war plans of the Air Force (when he did, Eisenhower was staggered, since the plan called for the immediate destruction of the Soviet Union rather than a more measured response). Information in the government can easily be concealed because secrets are compartmentalized and access is restricted to only those with a need to know.

Moreover, the actions of intelligence agencies are regulated by few laws. The CIA was legalized almost two years after it was founded by an act the provisions of which were so secret that members of Congress were unable to read the legislation. The National Security Agency's powers are, as Weiner has reported in his book, not defined by any law or legal code. The black budget, the projects of government for which there is no Congressional oversight worth the name, peaked at a staggering 36 billion dollars in 1988. Placing funds for a secret UFO project in that budget, if you have the authority, is as easy as buying groceries is for you or me.

The lesson of Blum's book is that the question of government secrecy and interest in UFOs and extraterrestrial life has become even more convoluted than it was before. Perhaps the UFO Working Group is simply the creation of one man and inconsequential for either the government or ufologists. Or maybe the Working Group is a front, designed to draw attention from the real program, which remains deeply buried. Or maybe there is no UFO Working Group, and Blum, who has been deceived, has only further muddied the waters for us all. At present one simply cannot decide which of these possibilities is the correct one.

Blum supports the efforts of all those who are interested in the possibility of extraterrestrial life, including the UFO Working Group. He ends the book on that upbeat note, and I can only echo his sentiments. The investigation of the UFO phenomenon is not strictly a search for aliens (as Persinger and others remind us), but it is a project in the best tradition of science and, when done by serious ufologists, one that deserves approbation, not condemnation. I don't know whether or not the government is spending money on UFO investigation, but I sure know it should be. ■

Photograph — *continued from page 14*

seven feet—and hit the wall in front of me about four feet up. It had come from behind, but only a wall was behind me.

The following Monday, the co-workers who had traveled with me were put out. They said they had tried to call me many times on Sunday for the return trip but been unable to reach me. (Whenever we left, we had asked the people in my sister's dorm to take a message if we received a telephone call.) The co-workers knew our names, the college and dorm names, and telephone number. They finally took a train and cabs back, at considerable expense. ■

Time

— *continued from page 21*

at least reasons to pause and doubt. The Roswell crash case has such glyphics as part of its reported details, for instance. And the scenario, as much as others, does not serve as a simple solution to the abduction phenomena described by Hopkins and Jacobs.

I cannot accept the time hypothesis as a neat solution to the abduction phenomenon for this reason: I believe it would be quite difficult to argue that abductions really happen without including Betty and Barney Hill among them. And I believe it would be awkward to accept the Hills' story and arbitrarily drop out any of the key details (for example the star map). If one accepts the star map, then the Zeta Reticuli argument is as good as any yet offered; but even if you don't accept the exact star designations, the map would indicate an extraterrestrial origin of the visitors.

Conclusions

Time travel may well be possible in our universe. Without a better grasp of a model of reality, scientists have no right to suggest otherwise. Time-traveling descendants of the human species is a possible hypothesis for some UFO experiences and coheres with some ufological features better than any other concept yet described. It remains, however, just another speculative, uncontrollable hypothesis unless we make unsuspected breakthroughs or the other guys let us in on what's going on. Time travelers from our own future fail to deal with several important aspects of UFO reports, although there exists *no* theory which can claim, to cover all details.

Time travel is a romantically appealing concept, since its reality would ensure our own immortality in some form as long as the universe avoided being swallowed down some larger singularity. Therefore it may be a particularly dangerous theory for some speculators in that it could inspire emotional attachments which could cloud critical judgment. Nevertheless, not only is it worth keeping in mind an open mind about these things, it is, in this age of newfound scientific humility (which some seem to have missed out on), imperative to do so.

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